

Appendix 11.11: Winter Bird Survey Technical Appendix



LAND NORTH OF BRYN LANE

WREXHAM

WINTER BIRD SURVEY

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APPENDIX B: Winter Bird Survey Weather Data

DRAWINGS

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G9134.010A WBS Visit 2 17.11.2021

G9134.011A WBS Visit 3 15.12.2021

G9134.012A WBS Visit 4 11.01.2022

G9134.013A WBS Visit 5 02.02.2022

G9134.014A WBS Visit 6 09.03.2022

G9134.016A WBS Visit 7 12.04.2022

G9134.018A Bird Survey Basemap - Winter Birds - Transect Route

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Environment Partnership (TEP) was commissioned by Net World Sports in October 2021 to undertake a Winter Bird Survey at the site known as Land North of Bryn Lane (hereafter referred to as 'the site') in Wrexham, North Wales. Ecological surveys are required to support an Environmental Statement that will inform proposals for a commercial development.

1.2 The proposed development is commercial in nature and encompasses:

Detailed Component:

- *Demolition of existing buildings, site clearance and preparation works, including removal of vegetation and reprofiling of topsoil, where necessary;*
- *Construction of a new warehouse unit, providing 33,595 sqm Gross External Area (GEA) for B1c (light industry appropriate in a residential area), B2 (general industrial) and B8 (storage & distribution) uses (Unit 2);*
- *Construction of 8 new smaller units (Units 3-7; 14-16), providing a total of 29,659 sqm GEA for B1c (light industry appropriate in a residential area), B2 (general industrial) and B8 (storage & distribution) uses;*

Outline Component:

- *Construction of up to 72,635 sqm GEA for employment uses (B1c (light industry appropriate in a residential area), B2 (general industrial) and B8 (storage & distribution) uses), ancillary retail/drive thru facilities and potential for a hotel and petrol filling station (A1, A3, C1 or sui generis). The overall quantum of A1, A3, C1 or sui generis use would not exceed 16,150 sqm GEA;*
- *The proposed buildings will be up to 28.5m in height above ground level;*

Site Wide

- *Access and parking provision, including new access junctions, internal roads, service yards and car and HGV parking. Two new junctions are proposed (in detail) providing vehicular access, as well as cycle and pedestrian access, from Bryn Lane/Industrial Estate Road with an additional access road for a substation. Car parking spaces, HGV trailer spaces and HGV lorry spaces are proposed across the application site;*
- *Retention and enhancement of some existing on-site green spaces and provision of landscaping around the application site; and*
- *Implementation of drainage/attenuation measures.*

1.3 The objectives of this report are to:

- Detail the methods and results of the winter bird survey visits undertaken to date
- Identify features of value within or near to the site for wintering birds

Description of the Site

- 1.4 The central grid reference of the site is SJ 38614 51101 and the location of the site is shown in Figure 1 below. The site extends to approximately 37.21 ha in size.
- 1.5 The site is bounded to the south by Bryn Lane and Wrexham Industrial Estate, to the north by Francis Lane, to the west by both Industrial Estate Road and Hugmore Lane (with associated residential properties), and to the east by open agricultural fields. The wider area predominantly comprises urban development to the west associated with Wrexham town centre, with open countryside present to the north and east and the industrial estate to the south.
- 1.6 The habitats present on site include arable fields, semi-improved neutral grassland, poor semi-improved grassland, modified neutral grassland, amenity grassland, semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, dense/continuous scrub, tall ruderal, standing water, ditches, hedgerows, scattered broad-leaved and coniferous trees, introduced shrub, bare ground with ephemeral/short perennial vegetation, buildings and hardstanding.

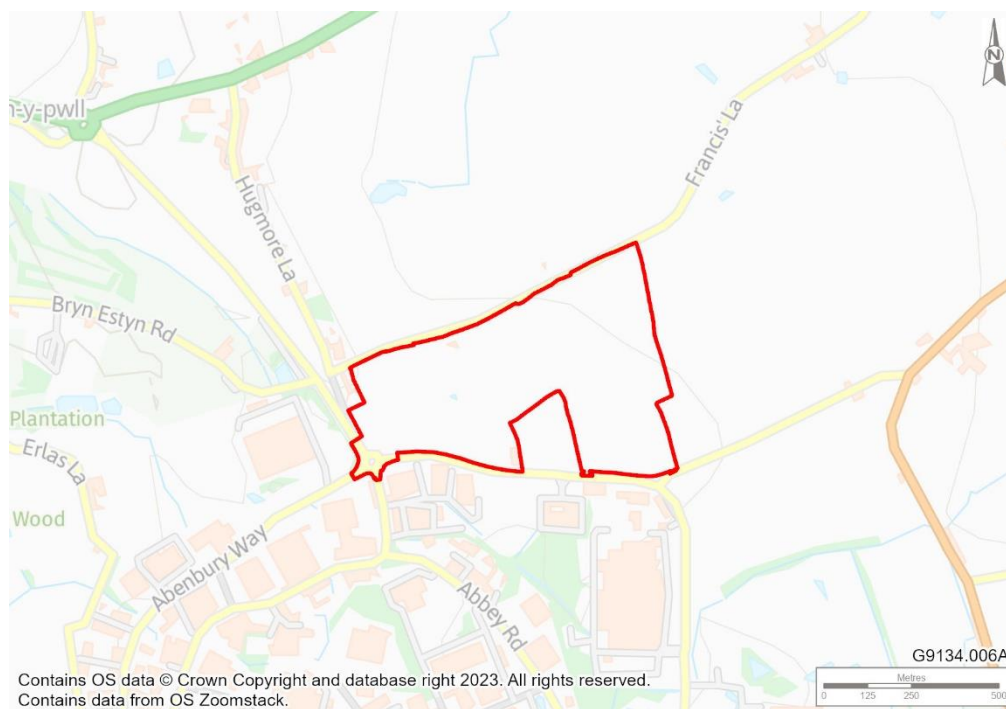


Figure 1: Site Location

2.0 Methods

Desk Based Assessment

- 2.1 Information was gathered regarding protected sites and species of conservation concern within 2 km of the proposed development site (TEP Document Reference: 7942.001 Appendix A). The sources used are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Ornithological information and consultations

Consultee / source of information	Nature of information
Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) Map	Statutory protected sites
ArcMap10	Ordnance and aerial survey mapping
North Wales Environmental Information Service (COFNOD)	Protected species records within 2km

Winter Bird Survey

- 2.2 Seven winter bird survey visits were undertaken between 22nd October 2021 and 12th April 2022.
- 2.3 During each survey visit a walked transect method was used. The transect route is illustrated in Drawing G9134.018A.
- 2.4 Birds recorded during the transect survey include: all waders, wildfowl, other water birds and raptor species; Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Amber (BAm) or Red List (BRd) species; priority species listed under Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); and protected species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA1) (1981, as amended). Observations were recorded directly onto the survey map.

Limitations

- 2.5 BoCC 5 was published on December 1st 2021, thus superseding BoCC 4, the effects of this on the survey results are detailed in paragraphs 3.27 and 3.28.
- 2.6 BoCC Wales 4 was published on December 12th 2022, thus superseding BoCC Wales 3, the effects of this on the survey results are detailed in paragraph 3.33.
- 2.7 The results illustrated in G9134.009A to G9134.0014A and G9134.016A show BoCC classifications at the time of completion of surveys, i.e. using BoCC 5 and BoCC Wales 3.
- 2.8 Amendments to the red line boundary following the survey mean that a small area in the southwest of the site, comprised of a roundabout and adjacent habitat, was not subject to survey. However, this is not considered to be a significant constraint as the area is considered to be unsuitable for wintering birds.

3.0 Results

Desk Based Assessment

Designated Sites

Special Protection Areas and Ramsar Sites

- 3.1 There are no internationally designated sites within 10km of the site which are designated for birds.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

- 3.2 The River Dee SSSI (England) is located 3.5km to the north-east of the site and when flooded provides important over-wintering sites for pintail.

Biological Heritage Sites (BHS)

- 3.3 There are no Biological Heritage Sites designated for wintering birds within 2km of the site.

Species Records

- 3.4 Winter bird records for within 2km of the site were obtained from North Wales Environmental Information Service (COFNOD).
- 3.5 The winter bird records included the following notable bird species in Table 2.
- 3.6 Bird species classed as notable are those listed on any of the following:
- Notable bird species include those Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA1);
 - Species of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Communities Act 2006 (S41);
 - Species of principal importance under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (S7);
 - Red and Amber listed Bird of Conservation Concern (BoCC) species (Stadbury *et al.* 2021) (BRd/ BAm);
 - Welsh Red and Amber listed Bird of Conservation Concern (BoCC) species (Johnstone and Bladwell 2016) (BRd Wales/ BAm Wales) and;
 - Bird species listed on the Local Biodiversity Action Plan by Wrexham Borough Council (LBAP) (2002).

Table 2: Notable bird species records within 2km of the site

Species	Legislation	No. of Records
Barn owl	WCA1, LBAP	16
Black-headed gull	S7, BAm, BRd (Wales)	8
Bullfinch	S7, BAm, BAm (Wales)	14

Species	Legislation	No. of Records
Cetti's warbler	WCA1	1
Common gull	BAm, BAm (Wales)	6
Common sandpiper	BAm, BAm (Wales)	1
Coot	BAm (Wales)	4
Crossbill	WCA1	1
Cuckoo	S7, BRd, BRd (Wales)	6
Curlew	S7, BRd, BRd (Wales)	12
Dunnock	S7, BAm, BAm (Wales)	18
Fieldfare	WCA1, BRd, BAm (Wales)	12
Gadwall	BAm	2
Goldcrest	BRd (Wales)	10
Goshawk	WCA1, BAm (Wales)	2
Grasshopper warbler	S7, BRd, BRd (Wales)	4
Great black-backed gull	BAm, BAm (Wales)	3
Green sandpiper	WCA1, BAm, BAm (Wales)	2
Greenfinch	BRd, BRd (Wales)	15
Grey heron	BAm (Wales)	8
Grey partridge	S7, BRd, BRd (Wales)	1
Grey wagtail	BAm, BAm (Wales)	7
Greylag goose	WCA1 pt2, BAm	9
Herring gull	S7, BRd, BRd (Wales)	11
Hobby	WCA1	6
House martin	BRd, BAm (Wales)	13
House sparrow	S7, BRd, BAm (Wales)	18

Species	Legislation	No. of Records
Jack snipe	BAm (Wales)	1
Kestrel	S7, BAm, BRd (Wales)	21
Kingfisher	WCA1, BAm	2
Lapwing	S7, BRd, BRd (Wales)	14
Lesser black-backed gull	BAm, BRd (Wales)	8
Lesser redpoll	S7, BRd, BAm (Wales)	1
Linnet	S7, BRd, BRd (Wales)	12
Little ringed plover	WCA1	2
Mallard	BAm	8
Marsh harrier	WCA1, BAm, BAm (Wales)	1
Marsh tit	S7, BRd, BRd (Wales)	2
Meadow pipit	BAm, BRd (Wales)	9
Merlin	WCA1, BRd, BRd (Wales)	1
Mistle thrush	BRd, BAm (Wales)	10
Moorhen	BAm	7
Mute swan	BAm	10
Oystercatcher	BAm, BAm (Wales)	1
Peregrine	WCA1	4
Pink-footed goose	BAm	1
Pintail	WCA1 pt2, BAm, BAm (Wales)	2
Pochard	BRd, BRd (Wales)	1
Quail	WCA1, BAm, BAm (Wales)	2
Redshank	BAm, BRd (Wales)	3
Redstart	BAm	3
Redwing	WCA1, BAm	12

Species	Legislation	No. of Records
Reed bunting	S7, BAm	7
Ringed plover	S7, BRd, BRd (Wales)	2
Rook	BAm, BRd (Wales)	13
Sedge warbler	BAm	7
Shelduck	BAm, BRd (Wales)	5
Shoveler	BAm, BAm (Wales)	1
Skylark	S7, BRd, BAm (Wales)	16
Snipe	BAm, BAm (Wales)	5
Song thrush	S7, BAm, LBAP	19
Sparrowhawk	BAm	10
Spotted flycatcher	S7, BRd, BRd (Wales)	3
Starling	S7, BRd, BRd (Wales)	19
Stock dove	BAm	19
Swift	BRd, BRd (Wales)	9
Tawny owl	BAm	5
Teal	BAm, BAm (Wales)	4
Tree sparrow	S7, BRd, BRd (Wales)	5
Wheatear	BAm	3
Whinchat	BRd, BRd (Wales)	2
Whitethroat	BAm, BRd (Wales)	14
Whooper swan	WCA1, BAm	2
Wigeon	BAm, BAm (Wales)	3
Willow warbler	BAm, BRd (Wales)	7
Woodcock	BRd, BRd (Wales)	5
Wren	BAm	23

Species	Legislation	No. of Records
Yellow Wagtail	S7, BRd, BRd (Wales)	2
Yellowhammer	S7, BRd, BRd (Wales)	10

Winter Bird Survey

- 3.7 The results of winter bird survey visits undertaken to date are illustrated in Drawings G9134.009A to G9134.0014A and G9134.016A. These drawings show BoCC classifications at the time of completion of surveys, i.e. using BoCC 5 and BoCC Wales 3.
- 3.8 Weather data for the winter bird survey is in Appendix B. Counts of birds recorded on the ground within the survey area are presented in Table 3.
- 3.9 A total of 29 target bird species were recorded on the ground within the survey area during the winter bird surveys. 21 of these species were recorded within the site itself. If birds recorded in the air are accounted for, 31 target bird species were recorded within the survey area during the winter bird surveys, with 22 species recorded within the site boundary. Results of the winter bird survey are summarised below.
- 3.10 The following results discussed do not include flyover records as the proposed development is not anticipated to affect birds that fly over the site.

Waders and Wildfowl

- 3.11 Seven species of wader and wildfowl were recorded within the site boundary and 500m buffer during the winter bird survey.
- 3.12 A single oystercatcher was recorded on the survey, at the far east of the buffer in one of the arable fields north of Ridley Wood Road on Visit 5, 02/02/22.
- 3.13 A single snipe was recorded on the survey. This was on Visit 3, 15/12/21 in the field at the north west of the site, close to the standing water.
- 3.14 Teal were recorded on Visit 5, 6 and 7. The peak count of 20 was recorded on Visit 5, 02/02/22. A group of 11 were recorded near the standing water and swamp area within the field at the far south east of the site. Two teal were recorded in the field at the north west of the site, close to the standing water and the remaining seven were also in this field. The peak count of teal within the site itself was two.
- 3.15 Mallard were recorded on every survey (excluding Visit 2 where they were recorded as a flyover species) throughout the site and buffer, often associated with the areas of standing water. The peak count of eight mallard were recorded on Visit 6, 09/03/22. Two were recorded near to the standing water in the western field of the site. Four mallard were recorded opposite the Kelloggs factory on Bryn Lane and two near to the standing water in one of the fields south of Francis' Lane.

- 3.16 The peak count of 74 Canada geese recorded on the survey was recorded on Visit 5, 02/02/22. Two were in the site, near to the standing water within the field to the far south east of the site. A group of 54, 8 and 10 were all recorded near to the areas of standing water in the buffer to the east of the site. The peak count of Canada geese on the site was four, recorded on Visit 7.
- 3.17 Greylag geese were not recorded within the site itself. The peak count of 52 greylag geese were recorded on Visit 5, 02/02/22. Two groups of 26 were recorded near to the standing water in the fields to the east of the site.
- 3.18 Two mute swan were recorded on Visit 7, 12/04/22. They were within the buffer at an area of standing water within a field south of Francis' Lane.

Other waterbirds

- 3.19 Two coot were recorded on Visit 7, 12/04/22, within the buffer to the east of the site on the standing water in one of the fields south of Francis' Lane.
- 3.20 Moorhen were recorded on Visit 1, 5, 6 and 7. The peak count of seven moorhen were recorded on Visit 7, 12/04/22. Four of these were within the site; two of which were within the field at the south east of the site and the other two were within the field at the centre of the site. A further three moorhen were recorded in the buffer – three (a single and two recorded together) on the standing water in the fields south of Francis' Lane.

Gulls

- 3.21 Black-headed gull were recorded on Visit 4 and Visit 5, the peak count of 42 on Visit 5, 02/02/22. The group of 42 were recorded within the buffer in the field east of Little Acorns.
- 3.22 Herring gull were recorded on Visit 4, 6 and 7. The peak of 21 herring gull was recorded on Visit 7, 12/04/22, within the buffer to the east of the site.
- 3.23 Lesser black-backed gull were recorded on Visit 4, 5 and 7. 39 were recorded on Visit 4. 38 were recorded at the far north east of the buffer within the fields, and then a single gull within the buffer on the Kelloggs factory.

Other Protected and BoCC Species

- 3.24 Two WCA1 species have been recorded at the site, fieldfare and redwing. Redwing are also a WCA1 species - this species breeds in the very north of Scotland in the United Kingdom, over winter they migrate further south in the United Kingdom and forage in hedgerows and fields in the open countryside. Fieldfare are a WCA1 species that overwinter in large numbers across the United Kingdom, migrating from Scandinavia.
- 3.25 Eight bird species recorded were also Section 41 species, these are dunnoek, herring gull, house sparrow, linnet, reed bunting, song thrush, starling and yellowhammer.

- 3.26 Seven species recorded were Section 7 species: dunnock, herring gull, house sparrow, reed bunting, song thrush, starling and yellow hammer. The additional species kestrel was recorded flying over and potentially hunting in the wider area.
- 3.27 It is of note that on December 1st 2021 Birds of Conservation Concern 5 was published, thus superseding Birds of Conservation Concern 4. Prior to this date BoCC birds recorded on surveys were those listed on BoCC 4 - this means that species added to the Amber or Red List in BoCC 5 that were previously listed as green were not recorded on visits before this date (Visits 1 and 2).
- 3.28 The majority of species would not be expected to be recorded on site due to the habitat not being suitable. However, for the case of four species it is likely they were on site but not recorded during visits 1 and 2, as they were recorded during subsequent survey visits. These include greenfinch (now BRd), woodpigeon (now BAm), wren (now BAm) and rook (now BAm).
- 3.29 Eight BoCC Red List and 19 Amber List bird species were recorded on the ground within the site and 500m buffer during the winter bird survey.
- 3.30 Red List species recorded were fieldfare, greenfinch, herring gull, house sparrow, linnet, mistle thrush, starling and yellowhammer.
- 3.31 Amber List species were black-headed gull, dunnock, grey wagtail, greylag goose, lesser black-backed gull, mallard, meadow pipit, moorhen, mute swan, oystercatcher, reed bunting, redwing, rook, song thrush, stock dove, snipe, teal, woodpigeon and wren.
- 3.32 The BTO publication BoCC5 covers the UK however Wales publish their own BoCC report and species may have differing categories.
- 3.33 It is of note that on December 12th 2022 the BoCC Wales 4 was published, thus superseding BoCC Wales 3. Prior to this date BoCC birds recorded on surveys were those listed on BoCC 3 - this means that species added to the Amber or Red List in BoCC 4 that were previously listed as green were not recorded on any of the visits.
- 3.34 Nine Wales BoCC Red List (ten if include the flyover species kestrel) and 9 Wales BoCC Amber List species were recorded.
- 3.35 Wales Red List species were black headed gull, greenfinch, herring gull, lesser black-backed gull, linnet, meadow pipit, rook, starling and yellowhammer.
- 3.36 Wales Amber List species were coot, dunnock, fieldfare, grey wagtail, house sparrow, mistle thrush, oystercatcher, snipe and teal.
- 3.37 Buzzard were the only raptor recorded on the ground, a kestrel was recorded in flight on Visit 6. Kestrel is also a Section 7, BoCC amber-listed and BoCC Wales red-listed species.

Table 3: Wintering Bird Survey Results

Species	Location	Visit Number - Count Recorded							Priority Status
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Black-headed gull	SB				15				BAm, BRd Wales
	SBU				18	43			
Buzzard	SB				1				
	SBU				1		1		
Canada Goose	SB					2	2	4	
	SBU				11	74	6	7	
Coot	SB								BAm Wales
	SBU							2	
Dunnoek	SB		1	2		1			S41, S7, BAm, BAm Wales
	SBU		2	2	2	1			
Fieldfare	SB				42				WCA1, BRd, BAm Wales
	SBU				52	2			
Greenfinch	SB				1				BRd, BRd Wales
	SBU				3	3			
Grey Wagtail	SB								BAm, BAm Wales
	SBU						1		
Greylag Goose	SB								BAm
	SBU				51	52			
Herring Gull	SB								S41, S7, BRd, BRd Wales
	SBU				4		1	21	
House Sparrow	SB		4						S41, S7, BRd, BAm Wales
	SBU		4	3	5	3	27	19	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	SB								BAm, BRd Wales
	SBU				39	5			
Linnet	SB								S41, BRd, BRd Wales
	SBU				62	60			
Mallard	SB	2		2			2	2	BAm

Species	Location	Visit Number - Count Recorded							Priority Status
	SBU	2		2	4	4	8	2	
Meadow Pipit	SB					5			BAm, BRd Wales
	SBU				15	5	5		
Mistle Thrush	SB								BRd, BAm Wales
	SBU				1	3			
Moorhen	SB	1				1		4	BAm
	SBU	1				1	1	7	
Mute Swan	SB								BAm
	SBU							2	
Oystercatcher	SB								BAm, BAm Wales
	SBU					1			
Redwing	SB				13	30	2		WCA1, BAm
	SBU				79	89	62		
Reed Bunting	SB	1						1	S41, S7, BAm
	SBU	1	1			2		2	
Rook					27	2	5		BAm, BRd Wales
					155	104	5		
Snipe	SB			1					BAm, BAm Wales
	SBU			1					
Song Thrush	SB							1	S41, S7, BAm
	SBU				3			1	
Starling	SB		16	5	80			2	S41, S7, BRd, BRd Wales
	SBU	9	16	5	185	10	22	16	
Stock Dove	SB					1			BAm
	SBU				8	1			
Teal	SB					20	3		BAm, BAm Wales
	SBU					20	3	3	
Woodpigeon	SB			2	98	285	61		BAm
	SBU			2	209	294	271		
Wren	SB					1	2		BAm

Species	Location	Visit Number - Count Recorded							Priority Status
	SBU				1	1	3		
Yellowhammer	SB	1		1					S41, S7, BRd, BRd Wales
	SBU	1		1	1				

Sector: SB (within site boundary); SBU (within site boundary and 500m survey buffer)

Visit Number and Dates: Visit 1: 22/10/2021; Visit 2: 17/11/2021; Visit 3: 15/12/2021; Visit 4: 11/01/2022; Visit 5: 02/02/2022; Visit 6: 09/03/2022;
Visit 7:12/04/2022

4.0 Discussion

Bird Species Associated with Protected Sites

- 4.1 There are no internationally designated sites for birds within 10km of the site.
- 4.2 The River Dee SSSI (England) is located 3.5km to the north-east of the site and when flooded provides important over-wintering sites for pintail. No pintail were recorded on the survey and there is no suitable habitat for this species at the site.
- 4.3 There are no Local Wildlife Sites designated for wintering birds within 2km of the site.

Wildfowl, Waders and Waterbirds Recorded

Teal

- 4.4 Teal were recorded on three of the survey visits with a peak count of 20 individuals recorded on Visit 5, 02/02/22.
- 4.5 The species is recorded as resident in the area by RSPB and recorded as a probable breeder on the BTO Bird Atlas¹. This suggests the species is present all year round and may not be solely associated with winter in the surrounding areas. The site has a number of small ponds which provide suitable habitat for wintering teal.
- 4.6 The fluctuation in numbers and dates of their recording (later in the survey season) suggests that although in the wider area teal may be present throughout the winter period, within the site, the species is using the site as a passage stop. The site is approximately 3.5km from the River Dee, 28km from the Dee Estuary and 30km from the Mersey Estuary. Despite the distance the Mersey Estuary, Dee Estuary and sites such as Woolston Eyes in Cheshire and the Wirral are some of the most important overwintering sites for the species in the UK so the records may potentially be associated with passing through birds associated with these sites. The most recent 5 year peak means: Dee Estuary 3,981 and Mersey Estuary 2,792². As 20 individuals is equivalent to less than 1% of the populations supported by these protected sites, and only 3 individuals were recorded on two other survey visits, it is considered that there would be no significant impacts on these protected sites as a result of the development due to possible impacts on teal.

Waders

- 4.7 A single snipe and single oystercatcher were recorded on the survey. These were the only waders recorded, suggesting the site is of low importance for any wading species.

¹ BTO Bird Atlas Map Store (available at: Map Store Viewer (bto.org))

² Frost, T.M., Calbrade, N.A., Birtles, G.A., Hall, C., Robinson, A.E., Wotton, S.R., Balmer, D.E. & Austin, G.E. 2021. Waterbirds in the UK 2019/20: The Wetland Bird Survey. BTO, RSPB and JNCC, in association with WWT. British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford.

- 4.8 Waders feed and roost on arable ground in winter, outside of the site there is similar habitat to the north and east. The proposed development is therefore unlikely to result in a negative impact on waders.

Geese

- 4.9 Canada and greylag geese were recorded on the survey.
- 4.10 Canada geese were recorded on Visit 4, 5, 6 and 7. The peak count of 74 Canada geese was recorded on Visit 5, 02/02/22. Two were in the site, near to the standing water within the field to the far south east of the site. A group of 54, 8 and 10 were all recorded near to the areas of standing water in the buffer to the east of the site. However, much smaller numbers were recorded on site, with a peak of four on Visit 7.
- 4.11 Greylag geese were not recorded within the site itself. The peak count of 52 greylag geese were recorded on Visit 5, 02/02/22. Two groups of 26 were recorded near to the standing water in the fields to the east of the site.
- 4.12 Greylag geese were observed in larger numbers outside of the site and buffer on Visit 7, 09/03/22 (authors own observation).
- 4.13 Geese feed and roost on arable land during the winter season, due to the low numbers actually within the site and the fact there is suitable habitat to the north and east the impact of the development on species of geese is likely to be minimal.

Waterbirds and Wildfowl

- 4.14 More common waterbirds and wildfowl were recorded in relatively low numbers within the site and buffer, almost all were associated with the areas of ponds, ephemeral pools and standing water, similar to the teal. Species include mallard, moorhen, coot and mute swan.
- 4.15 With theretention of some of the water bodies not all bird species associated with the water bodies on site will disperse, especially if suitable vegetation surrounding the water bodies are retained.

Gulls

- 4.16 Black headed gull, herring gull and lesser black-backed gulls were recorded on the survey. Only black headed gulls were recorded within the site.
- 4.17 Gulls were also observed (verbal communication with surveyors and authors own observations when on site) outside of the buffer within the arable fields and the industrial estates to the west and south of the site. Gulls feed on arable fields in winter and will also feed and forage in urban areas.
- 4.18 The development is unlikely to have a negative impact on any gull species due to their being suitable habitat in the surrounding area.

Birds of Conservation Concern

- 4.19 A range of birds of conservation concern species were recorded within and immediately adjacent to the site, including flocks of starling, rook, colonies of house sparrows and winter thrushes.
- 4.20 Redwing and fieldfare have been recorded foraging in the grassland fields and hedgerows during the survey. The peak count of redwing was 89 on Visit 6, recorded in flocks across the site, with 30 of these within the site. The peak count of fieldfare was 52, consisting of a number of smaller flocks throughout the site and buffer.
- 4.21 Due to the scale of the development, as well as the proposed loss of a number of hedgerows and open fields, the development could have a limited negative impact on wintering BoCC species, such as fieldfare, redwing, rook, starling and woodpigeon. However, there is a large amount of similar habitat present in the wider area of the site. Retention and appropriate management of hedgerows and trees within the site would enable habitat to continue to be provided for these species.

Winter Bird Habitat Assessment summary

- 4.22 Wintering waterbirds, wildfowl and waders were recorded on site and within the buffer. However, the number of such species was low enough that it has been judged that the proposed development will have limited impact on the species recorded. This opinion is based on the following information:
- Only a single oystercatcher and snipe were recorded on the survey and suitable feeding habitat surrounds the development site
 - Waterbodies onsite were only recorded to be used by low numbers of wintering waterbirds
 - Waterbodies will be retained on site meaning that although dispersal of some species such as mallard and teal may occur some may still be able to use the site during the winter season
 - The removal of the hedgerows and habitat used for foraging by species such as winter thrushes will have a small impact, as suitable feeding habitat surrounds the development site
- 4.23 The impacts of the proposed development and proposed mitigation are assessed in the accompanying ES Chapter (TEP Report Ref: 9134.011).

APPENDIX A: Protected Site Citation

Site name: River Dee (England) **County:** Cheshire/ Shropshire

District: Chester City Council District Council/ North Shropshire District Council

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under section 28C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Local Planning Authorities: Cheshire County Council, Shropshire County Council, Chester City Council District Council, North Shropshire District Council

National Grid reference: SJ417532

Area: 371.50 ha

Ordnance Survey sheet: 1:50,000: 117, 126 **1:10,000:** SJ23, 26, 33, 34, 44, 45, 46

Date notified (under 1981 Act): 1996

Date of Last Revision: 2 May 2002

Reasons for notification:

The River Dee is notified for its nationally important transition through a range of river types from mesotrophic to eutrophic. It is also notified for Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, otter *Lutra lutra*, club-tailed dragonfly *Gomphus vulgatissimus* and fluvial geomorphology.

The River Dee lies within both England and Wales, and is notified as separate SSSIs – the River Dee (England) and the Afon Dyfrdwy-River Dee SSSI in Wales. The features for which the two SSSIs are notified, in particular the range of river types and migratory fish, depend upon the whole river ecosystem. The fluvial geomorphological interest occurs in both England and Wales.

The English sections of the river are therefore notified as components of the whole ecosystem for which the river is a nationally important example, and because the otter, club-tailed dragonfly and the geomorphological interest occurs on the English reaches.

General description:

The River Dee (England) SSSI comprises the part of the river of the same name and the part of its tributary, the Ceiriog, that flow through England. The site includes a section of the river as it meanders across the Cheshire plain down stream from Shocklach, where it forms the national boundary, northwards through Chester to the city's western outskirts. Further up the catchment, the southern half of river channel

of the River Ceiriog located in North Shropshire between Chirk Castle and Erbistock forms part of the SSSI.

The Afon Dyfrdwy-River Dee SSSI has its source in Snowdonia at the outflow of Llyn Tegid SSSI and it includes the Ceiriog, Meloch, Tryweryn and Mynach tributaries. Its catchment contains a wide spectrum of landscape from high mountains around Bala, rugged peaks near Llangollen, steep sided wooded valleys, and the plains of Cheshire and North Shropshire through to the vast mudflats of the estuary. There is a tidal influence as far upstream as Farndon and high tides regularly exceed the Chester weir crest level. It flows through broad valley near Corwen, and through the spectacular Vale of Llangollen before meandering northwards through parts of the Cheshire plain where it joins the River Dee (England) SSSI. Further downstream it includes the stretch below Chester to where the river meets the Dee Estuary.

The River Dee is reputed to be the most regulated river in Europe, with flow controlled by the reservoirs of Tegid, Celyn and Brenig.

Flora

The River Dee (England) is typical of a mesotrophic river. The aquatic plant community includes species of water crowfoot *Ranunculus fluitans x aquatilis* and *Ranunculus peltatus*, and also floating water plantain *Luronium natans*. Water crowfoot forms extensive beds along the whole length of the Dee where flow conditions are suitable. Other aquatic plants which occur within the site include intermediate water-starwort *Callitriche hamulata*, alternate-flowered water-milfoil *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* and bryophytes including *Rhynchostegium riparoides* and *Fontinalis antipyretica*. Marginal vegetation consists mainly of reed canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* with occasional branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*.

Downstream of Llangollen to Bangor-on-Dee the river shows signs of nutrient enrichment with Canadian waterweed *Elodea canadensis* becoming more prevalent. Below Bangor-on-Dee the River Dee (England) flows into the Cheshire plains and displays typical characteristics of lowland river types with shallow gradients and rich geology, with curled pondweed *Potamogeton crispus* and fennel pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* occurring frequently.

There is good tree cover along the banks of the River Dee and the tributaries, with the Ceiriog being tree lined on both banks along much of its length. The dominant species are alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willow *Salix* spp., with occasional ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and oak *Quercus* spp.. Where sections of the riverbank have been fenced off the vegetation tends to be dominated by bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, nettles *Urtica dioica* and other tall ruderals. Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* and Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* are increasing throughout the site.

Mammals

The otter *Lutra lutra* is well established throughout the river system, especially where appropriate bank side cover exists. Numbers have increased along the River Dee (England) in recent years, and there is a record of young being seen in 2000. Water vole *Arvicola terrestris* have been recorded on the middle and lower reaches of the River Dee.

Fish

The River Dee is recognised as one of North Wales' premier rivers for Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*. The Mynach, Meloch and Ceiriog tributaries are the most important salmon spawning tributaries in the Dee catchment and are included in the Afon Dyfrdwy-River Dee SSSI and also in relation to the English part of Ceiriog in the River Dee (England). Other migratory fish utilising the river system include sea trout *Salmo trutta trutta*, eel *Anguilla anguilla*, river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, and sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*. Smelt *Osmerus eperlanus* and twaite shad *Alosa fallax* have been recorded in the section between Chester and the estuary.

The Dee also supports important populations of non-migratory fish including brown trout *Salmo trutta*, bullhead *Cottus gobio*, and brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*. The middle and lower reaches of the Dee support a diverse coarse fish population. The river is noted for its grayling *Thymallus thymallus*

Birds

The entire River Dee system and associated tributaries support a wide range of breeding birds, which utilise a variety of bankside habitats. Nesting habitat for the kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* and sand martin *Riparia riparia* is provided by active erosion of riverbanks. Areas of fast flowing water and bankside cover are favoured by the dipper *Cinclus cinclus* and grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*, whereas the yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava* and mute swan *Cygnus olor* are found along the slower flowing reaches. Populations of grey heron *Ardea cinerea*, common sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* and goosander *Mergus merganser* also occur on the River Dee.

Areas of the Lower Dee floodplains provide breeding grounds for waders such as the lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, and, when flooded, provide important over-wintering sites for the pintail *Anas acuta*.

Invertebrates

The club-tailed dragonfly *Gomphus vulgatissimus* is nationally scarce and present along the lower Dee including several parts of the River Dee (England), particularly where the river is slow flowing and there is adjacent woodland habitat or bankside tree cover available for adults. This population is the most northerly in Britain and the only one within the Cheshire Area of Search.

The lower reaches of the River Dee support Britain's only known population of the stonefly *Isogenus nubecula*, which is classified as vulnerable in the Red Data Book. The nationally scarce weevil *Baris lepidii* has been recorded on sandy riverbanks along the lower Dee but has not been recorded on any other Welsh river.

Geology/Geomorphology

The River Dee Holt to Worthenbury Geological Conservation Review (GCR), previously notified as an SSSI, straddles the border and is partly located within the River Dee (England) SSSI and the Afon Dyfrdwy-River Dee SSSI.

Holt to Worthenbury (Fluvial Geomorphology)

This area of interest comprises a meandering reach of the River Dee between Holt in the north and Worthenbury in the south. It includes land in Wrexham (Wales) and Cheshire (England) and consists of some of the most spectacular and intricately developed river bends or meanders seen anywhere in Britain. The area is of national importance for studies of fluvial geomorphology.

The main features of interest within the area are: 1) the present river channel and its intricate pattern of meanders; 2) the main areas of floodplain either side of the river, for the full length of the selected reach; 3) all the visible palaeochannels (abandoned channels) located on the floodplain adjacent to the present channel; 4) the gravel and sand bars located within the modern channel and the other evidence of modern-day river processes contained within the channel; and 5) the most impressive of the remnants of ancient cliffs located towards the north-east and south-west margins of the site.

The scientific value of the site can be summarised as follows: First, the pattern and scale of the meanders are exceptional on a British scale: the range of forms from simple curves to double-headed forms, and the intricacy of the pattern developed over the whole reach is outstanding.

Second, the total landform assemblage, including the remnants of ancient river cliffs, the floodplain areas, and the present and abandoned channels, provides the basis for reconstructing the development of the river since the end of the last glaciation. Third, the abandoned channels and old meander loops (some of which were once oxbow lakes) are exceptional landforms in their own right; their pattern, location and contained sediments provide significant potential for reconstructing some of the geologically recent changes in the course of the River Dee in its long evolution during Holocene times, i.e. the last 11,500 years. Fourth, the gravel and sand bars distributed along the course of the modern channel, and the changing form of its banks and bed, bear witness to a range of important modern-day fluvial processes.

Although this part of the course of the River Dee has changed in position markedly during the Holocene, the last few hundred years have been characterised by relative channel stability. It seems likely that the banks and bed of the modern channel are now evolving in response to changing flow and sediment regimes induced by upstream regulation and other human modifications to the fluvial system. The significance of the site for studying modern-day river processes is enhanced by the tidally-influenced downstream reach. This renders the area potentially significant for investigating the effects of possible future sea-level rise on the development of the river channel, particularly in view of the long history of tidal influence and stage records (river level) at downstream locations.

This reach of the Dee is therefore of major scientific importance and, as such, is a valuable part of the heritage of Great Britain. Its national importance stems from its outstanding combination of landform, sedimentary and process evidence. Most large British rivers have been significantly channelised or straightened in their lower reaches. The Dee is exceptional in maintaining an extremely sinuous planform across the sensitive fluvial-tidal transition zone.

Other information:

The River Dee (England) abuts Afon Dyfrdwy-River Dee SSSI

The Afon Dyfrdwy-River Dee proposed SAC abuts onto the Dee Estuary SAC.

The River Dee (England) SSSI in association with the Afon Dyfrdwy-River Dee SSSI supports the following habitats and species listed in the EC Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. Those marked with an asterisk occur within England:

Floating vegetation of *Ranunculus* of plane, sub-mountainous rivers – Annex I

Otter *Lutra lutra** - Annex II & IV

Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus** - Annex II

River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis** - Annex II & V

Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri** - Annex II

Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar** - Annex II & V

Bullhead *Cottus gobio** - Annex II

Freshwater Pearl Mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* – Annex II & V

Grayling *Thymallus thymallus* – Annex V

The otter *Lutra lutra* and the Freshwater Pearl Mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* are listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Parts of this site have been selected as a result of the former Nature Conservancy Council's Geological Conservation Review (GREGORY, K.J. 1997. *Fluvial Geomorphology of Great Britain*. Geological Conservation Review Series No. 13., Chapman & Hall), a national survey and evaluation of sites of geological and geomorphological interest.

The River Dee (England) lies within the Meres and Mosses and Oswestry Uplands Natural Areas.

APPENDIX B: Winter Bird Survey Weather Data

Visit	Date	Survey Period	Surveyor	Time of Sunrise/Sunset	Rain (start/finish)	Cloud (start/finish)	Wind Force & Direction (start/finish)	Visibility (start/finish)	Temperature (°C) (start/finish)
1	22/10/2021	10:00-13:00	CD	07:52:50/18:00:44	0/0	7/6	4 NW/3 NW	4/4	11/12
2	17/11/2021	8:00-10:30	LG	07:41:01/16:14:01	0/0	2/4	1 NW/1 WW	4/4	9/11
3	15/12/2021	8:30-11:30	LG	08:19:54/15:55:53	0/0	3/3	0 N/0 N	1/1	6/7
4	12/01/2022	10:30-14:40	AW	08:19:56/16:21:54	0/0	1/0	1 S-N/1 S-N	4/4	4/5
5	02/02/2022	05:45-12:45	AW	07:52:50/16:59:28	0/0	6/4	2SW-NE/2 SW-NE	4/4	10/11
6	09/03/2022	10:50-14:00	MHS	06:39:26/16:06:10	0/0	6/7	4 S/6 S	4/4	11/12
7	12/04/2022	9:30-12:30	CD	06:18:59/20:07:11	2/2	8/8	2 SE/2 SE	4/4	10/13

DRAWINGS

G9134.009A WBS Visit 1 22.10.2021

G9134.010A WBS Visit 2 17.11.2021

G9134.011A WBS Visit 3 15.12.2021

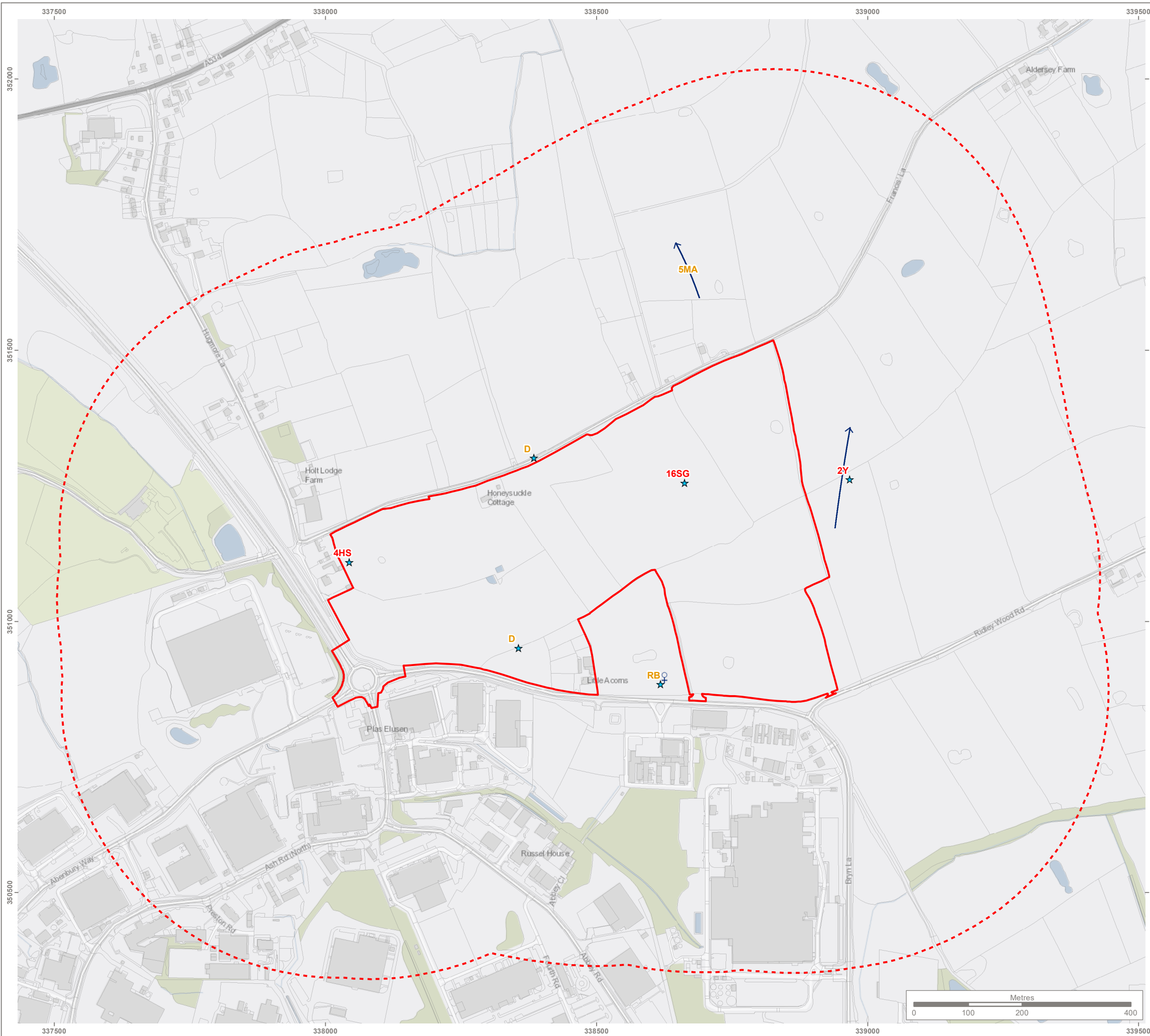
G9134.012A WBS Visit 4 11.01.2022

G9134.013A WBS Visit 5 02.02.2022

G9134.014A WBS Visit 6 09.03.2022

G9134.016A WBS Visit 7 12.04.2022

G9134.018A Bird Survey Basemap - Winter Birds - Transect Route



KEY

- Site boundary
- Site boundary 500m offset
- Section 7 species
- A female
- Directional flight line

Species Codes

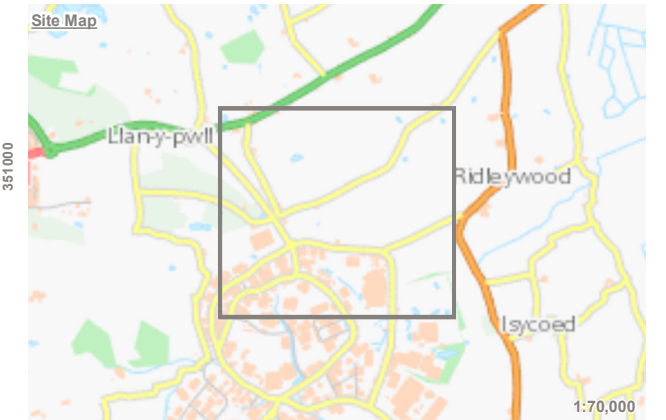
- D Dunnock
- HS House sparrow
- MA Mallard
- RB Reed bunting
- SG Starling
- Y Yellowhammer

Note

Red Red List Species **Amber** Amber List Species



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A	Site boundary update.	SP	AE	17/04/2023
Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



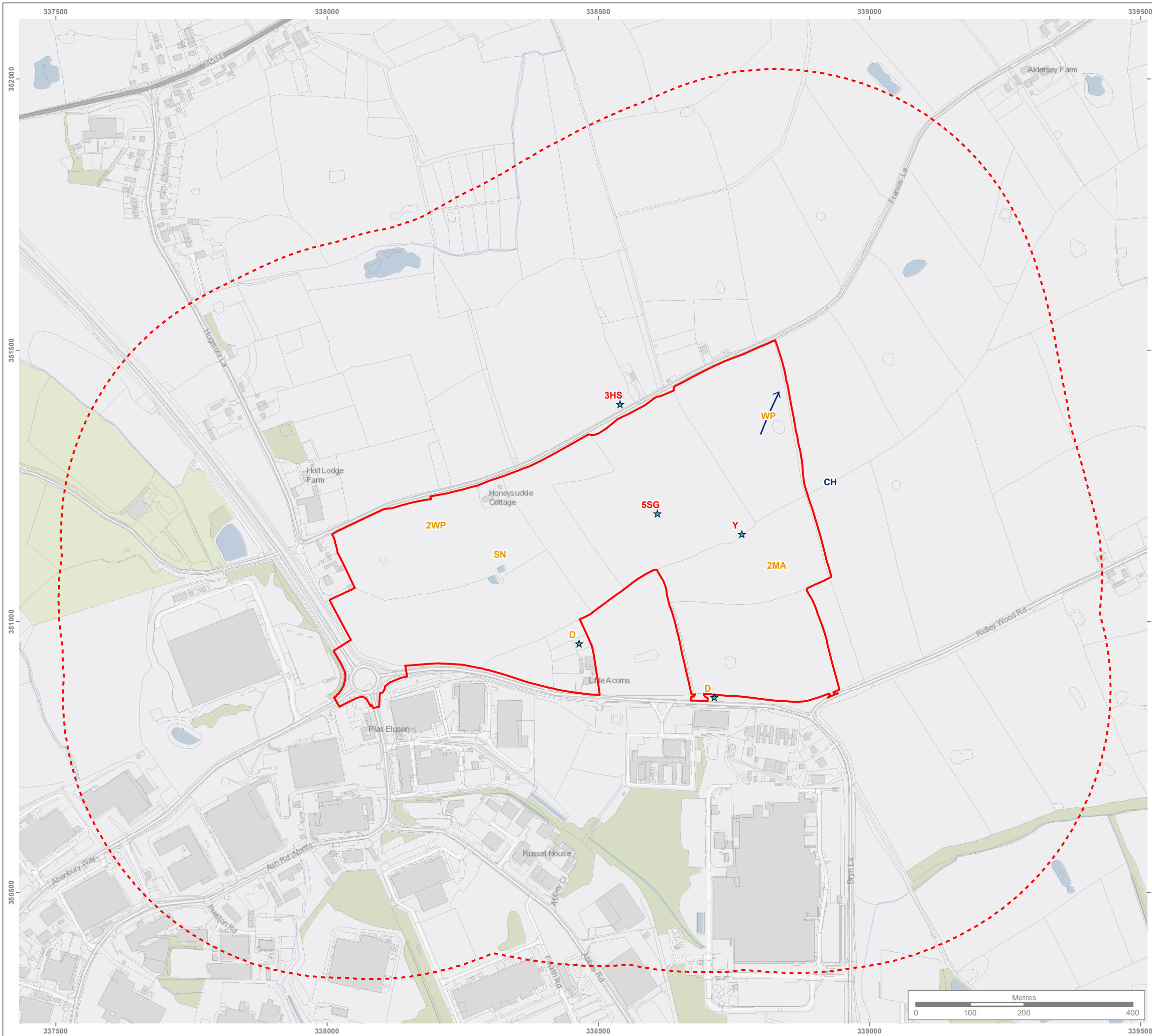
Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project
Land North of Bryn Lane, Wrexham

Title
Winter Bird Survey - Land North of Bryn Lane
Visit 2 - 17th November 2021

Drawing Number
G9134.010A

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AP	CW	LJ	1:7,000 @ A3	17/04/2023



KEY

- Site boundary
- Site boundary 500m offset
- ★ Section 7 species
- Directional flight line

Species Codes

- CH Chaffinch
- D Dunnock
- HS House sparrow
- MA Mallard
- SG Starling
- SN Snipe
- WP Woodpigeon
- Y Yellowhammer

Note

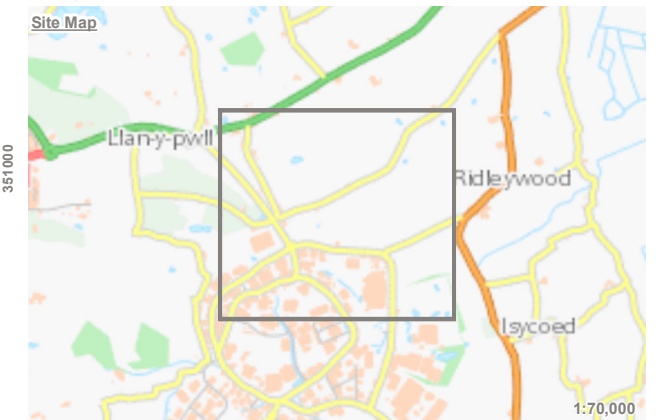
Red Red List Species **Amber** Amber List Species



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Site Map



A	Site boundary update.	SP	AE	17/04/2023
Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



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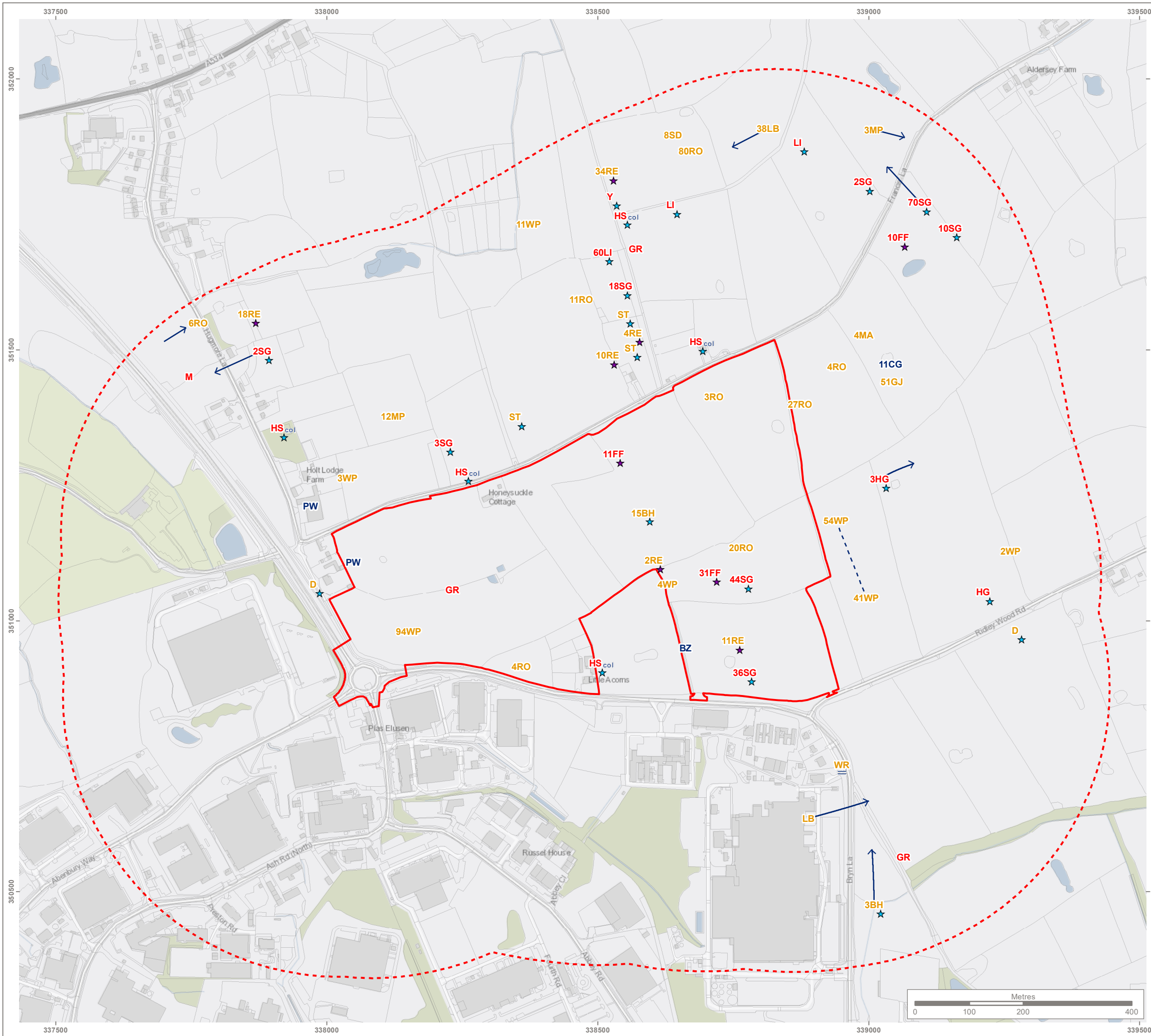
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Project
Land North of Bryn Lane, Wrexham

Title
**Winter Bird Survey - Land North of Bryn Lane
Visit 3 - 15th December 2021**

Drawing Number
G9134.011A

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AP	CW	LJ	1:7,000 @ A3	17/04/2023



KEY

- Site boundary
- Site boundary 500m offset
- ★ Section 7 species
- ★ Schedule 1 species
- col A colony of birds
- = A bird repeatedly giving alarm-calls/other vocalisations
- Directional flight line
- Simultaneous registration (different birds)

Species Codes

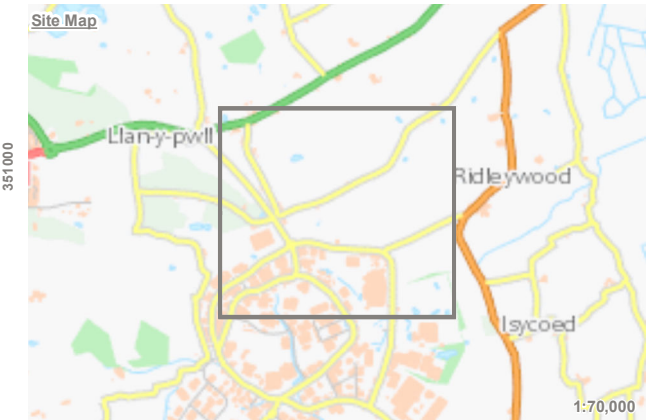
BH	Black-headed gull	MA	Mallard
BZ	Buzzard	MP	Meadow pipit
CG	Canada goose	PW	Pied wagtail
D	Dunnock	RE	Redwing
FF	Fieldfare	RO	Rook
GJ	Greylag goose	SD	Stock dove
GR	Greenfinch	SG	Starling
HG	Herring gull	ST	Song thrush
HS	House sparrow	WP	Woodpigeon
LB	Lesser black-backed gull	WR	Wren
LI	Linnet	Y	Yellowhammer
M	Mistle thrush		

Note

Red Red List Species **Amber** Amber List Species



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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



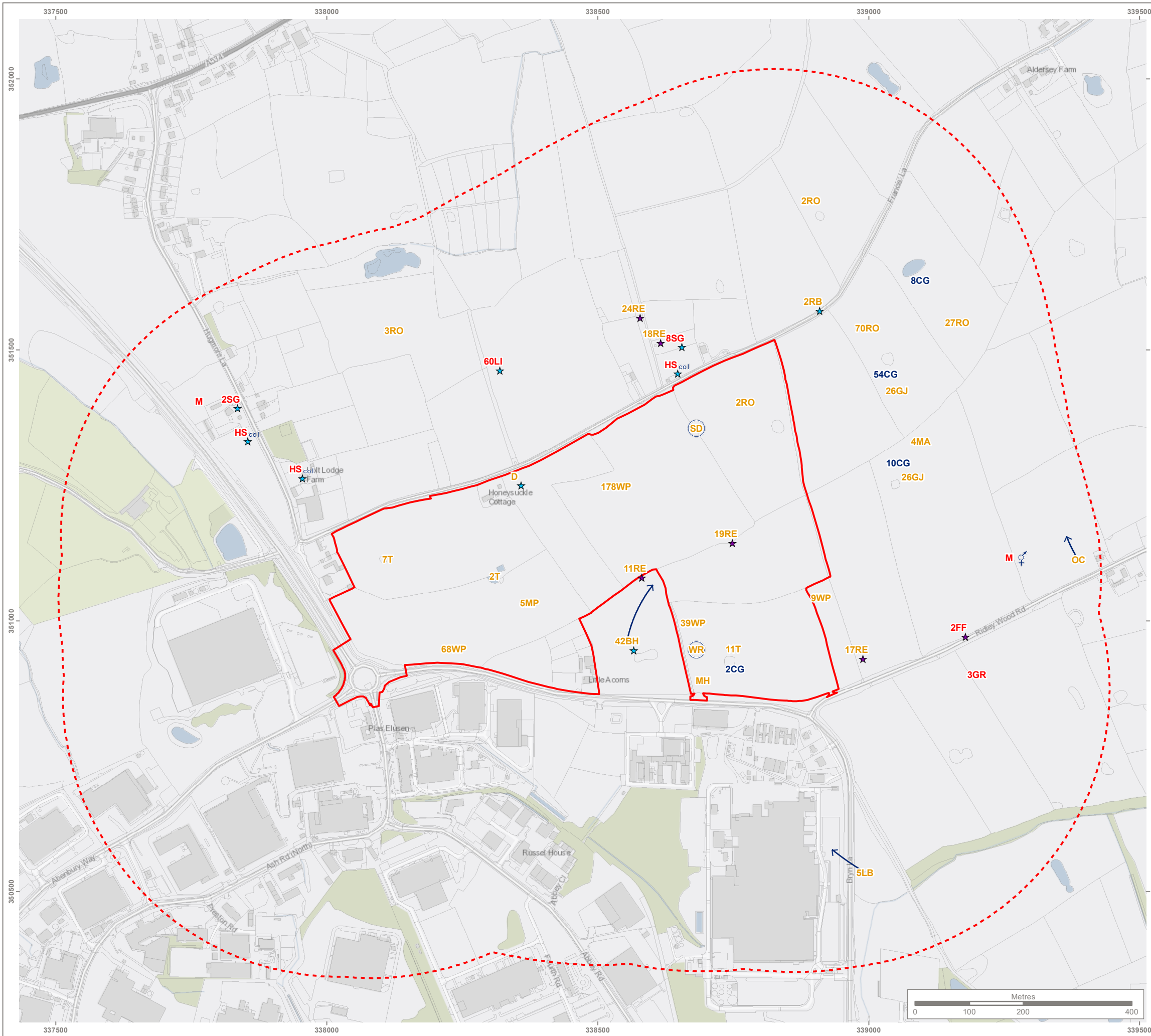
Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
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Project
Land North of Bryn Lane, Wrexham

Title
Winter Bird Survey - Land North of Bryn Lane
Visit 4 - 12th January 2022

Drawing Number
G9134.012A

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AP	CW	LJ	1:7,000 @ A3	17/04/2023



KEY

- Site boundary
- Site boundary 500m offset
- ★ Section 7 species
- ★ Schedule 1 species
- col A colony of birds
- ♀ Male and female pair
- A bird in song
- Directional flight line

Species Codes

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|---------------|
| BH | Black-headed gull | MP | Meadow pipit |
| CG | Canada goose | OC | Oystercatcher |
| D | Dunnock | RB | Reed bunting |
| FF | Fieldfare | RE | Redwing |
| GJ | Greylag goose | RO | Rook |
| GR | Greenfinch | SD | Stock dove |
| HS | House sparrow | SG | Starling |
| LB | Lesser black-backed gull | T | Teal |
| LI | Linnet | WP | Woodpigeon |
| M | Mistle thrush | WR | Wren |
| MA | Mallard | | |
| MH | Moorhen | | |

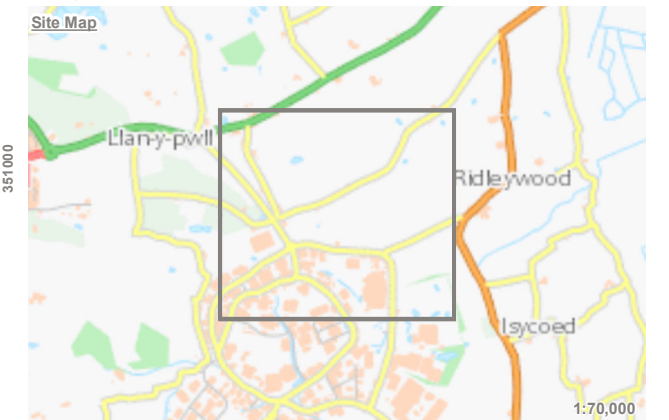
Note

- Red** Red List Species **Amber** Amber List Species



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Site Map



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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



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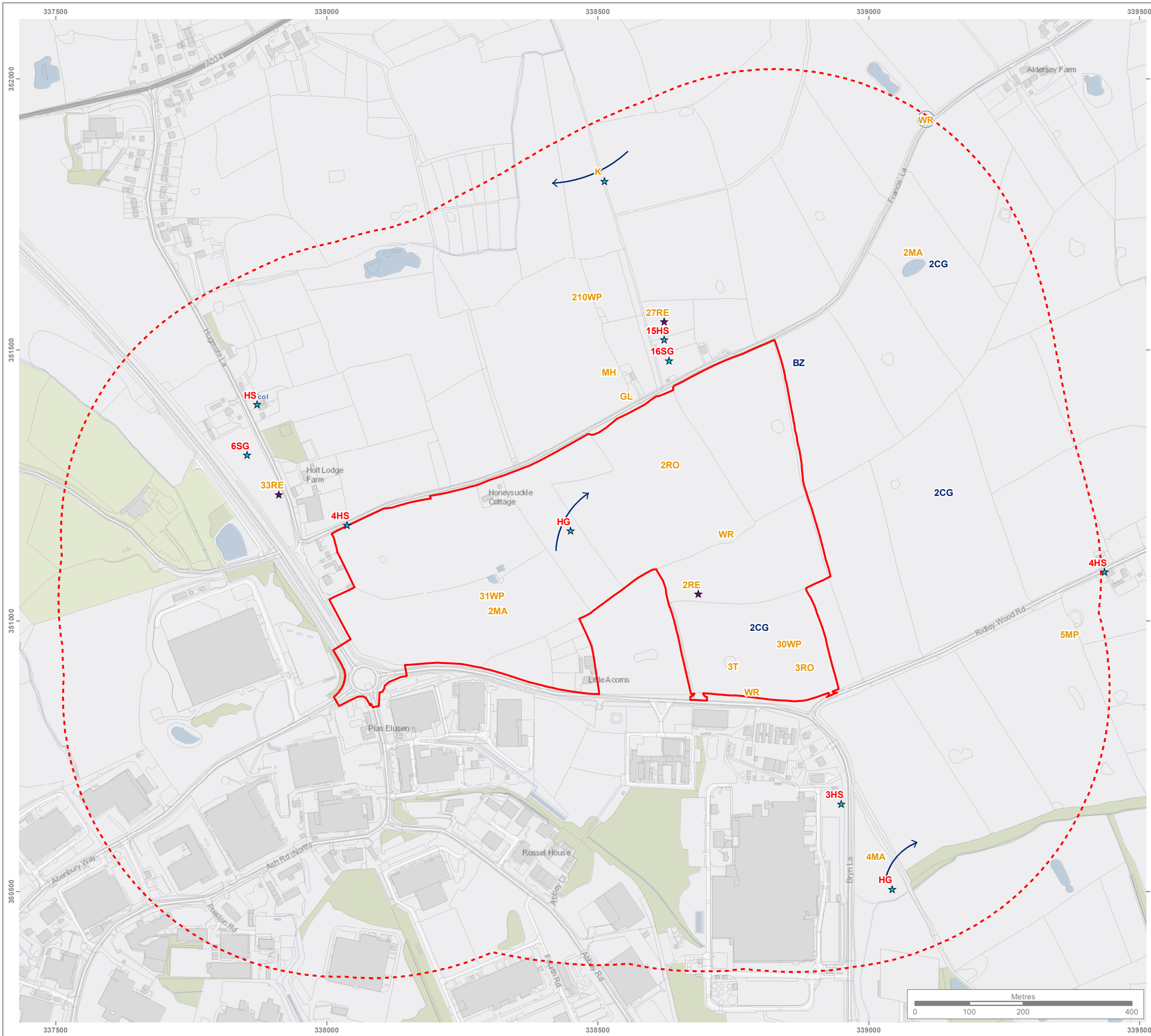
Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
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Project
Land North of Bryn Lane, Wrexham

Title
**Winter Bird Survey - Land North of Bryn Lane
Visit 5 - 2nd February 2022**

Drawing Number
G9134.013A

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AP	CW	LJ	1:7,000 @ A3	17/04/2023



KEY

- Site boundary
- Site boundary 500m offset
- Section 7 species
- Schedule 1 species
- A colony of birds
- A bird in song
- Directional flight line

Species Codes

- BZ Buzzard
- CG Canada goose
- GL Grey wagtail
- HG Herring gull
- HS House sparrow
- K Kestrel
- MA Mallard
- MH Moorhen
- MP Meadow pipit
- RE Redwing
- RO Rook
- SG Starling
- T Teal
- WP Woodpigeon
- WR Wren

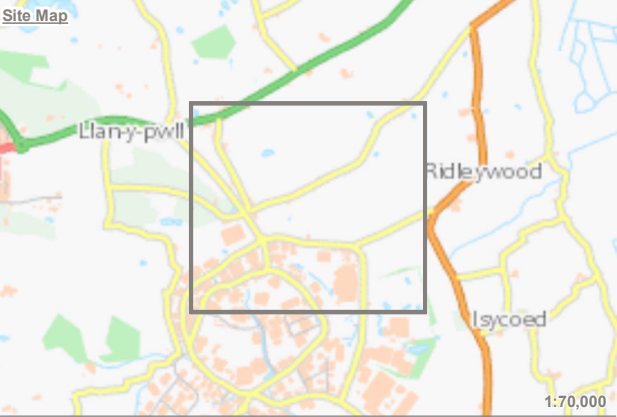
Note

Red Red List Species Amber Amber List Species



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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



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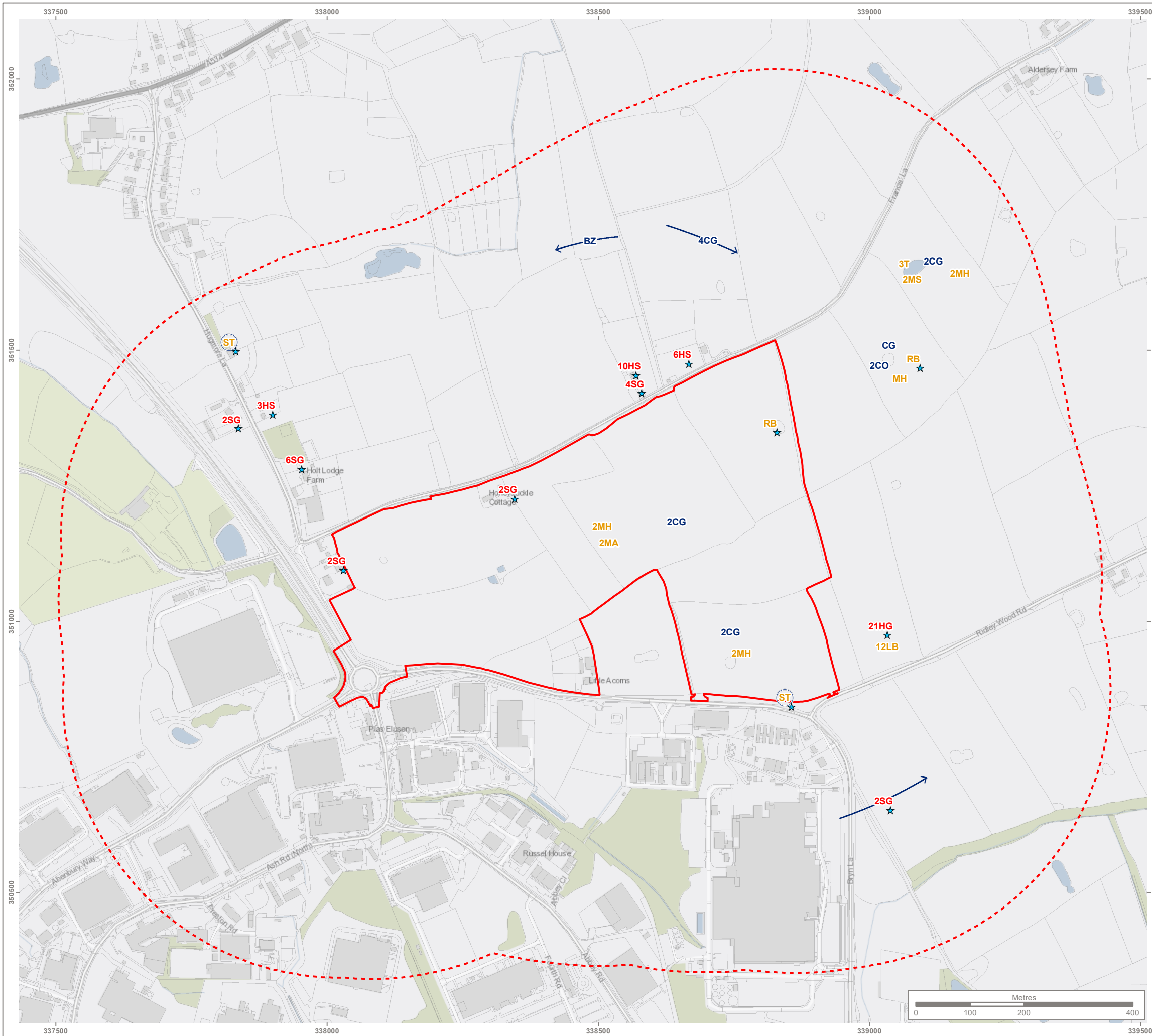
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Project
Land North of Bryn Lane, Wrexham

Title
Winter Bird Survey - Land North of Bryn Lane
Visit 6 - 9th March 2022

Drawing Number
G9134.014A

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AP	CW	LJ	1:7,000 @ A3	17/04/2023



KEY

- Site boundary
- Site boundary 500m offset
- ★ Section 7 species
- A bird in song
- Directional flight line

Species Codes

- BZ Buzzard
- CG Canada goose
- CO Coot
- HG Herring gull
- HS House sparrow
- LB Lesser black-backed gull
- MA Mallard
- MH Moorhen
- MS Mute swan
- RB Reed bunting
- SG Starling
- ST Song thrush
- T Teal

Note

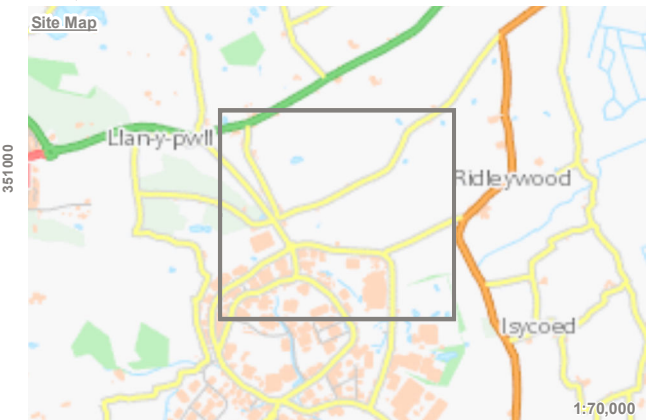
- Red Red List Species
- Amber Amber List Species



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A	Site boundary update.	SP	AE	17/04/2023
Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



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Project
Land North of Bryn Lane, Wrexham

Title
**Winter Bird Survey - Land North of Bryn Lane
Visit 7 - 12th April 2022**

Drawing Number
G9134.016A

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AP	CW	LJ	1:7,000 @ A3	17/04/2023



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